1:Dobrizhoffer M-5 (ca. 1760) 1822
514 Abipon 514

147
512 saddles, practise every thing, in short, fatiguing to
526 the hands or feet. But if they indulge themselves with an intermission of these employments, they ride horseraces for a sword which is given to him who reaches the goal first. Another very common game amongst the Abipones is one which they play on foot. The instrument with which it is performed is a piece of wood about two hands long, rounded like a staff, thicker at the extremities and slenderer in the middle. This piece of wood they throw to the mark, with a great effort, in such a manner that it strikes the ground every now and then, and rebounds, like the stones which boys throw along the surface of a river. Fifty and often a hundred men stand in a row and throw this piece of wood by turns, and he who flings it the farthest and the straightest obtains the sword.

This game, which from boys they are accustomed to play at for hours together, amuses and fatigues them with wonderful benefit to their
[471] health. The same piece of wood which serves both as an instrument of peace and war, is made formidable use of by many of the savages to crush the bodies of their enemies and of wild
[181] beasts. The Abipones hate to lead the life of
147 a snail, idle and listless, and consequently do
512 not undergo a swift and miserable decay, like those who are stupefied with sloth, confined to

1;Dobrizhoffer M-S (ca. 1760) 1822
514 Abipon 514

CHAPTER XIII.

OF THE FOOD, JOURNEYS, AND OTHER PARTICULARS OF THE ECONOMY OF THE ABIPONES.

222 THE wild Abipones live like wild beasts. They
224 neither sow nor reap, nor take any heed of
[241] agriculture. Taught by natural instinct, the
[82] instructions of their ancestors, and their own experience, they are acquainted with all the productions of the earth and the trees, at what part of the year they spontaneously grow, what animals are to be found in what places, and what arts are to be employed in taking them.
421 All things are in common with them. They have no proprietors, as with us, of lands, rivers, and groves, who possess the exclusive right of hunting, fishing, and gathering wood there. Whatever flies in the air, swims in the water, and grows wild in the woods, may become the property of the first person that chooses to take it. The Abipones are unacquainted with spades,
[411 231] ploughs, and axes; the arrow, the spear, the club, and horses, are the only instruments they make use of in procuring food, clothing, and
221 habitation. As all lands do not bear all things, and as various productions grow at various

1:Dobrizhoffer M-5 (ca. 1760) 1822
SI4 Abipon SI4

finished in divers ways. The sickness is ended, would be rendered *Láyamini;* the rain, the moon, the cold is ended, *Lánámrenge neetè, grauck, latarà;* the war is ended, *Nahálañi aneglà;* the Spanish soldiers are ended, that is slaughtered; *Lanamichiriñi Kalma yoalirípi;* my patience is ended, *Lanámouge yapik;* the storm is ended, *Layamhà;* he hath ended his office, his magistracy hath expired, *La yauereigè;* end, or finish thy work, *Grahálgali, laamachi graénategi;* now the thing is finished, *Layam ayam;* at the end of the world, *Amla hanamĩrani.* If a battle is fought with arrows, it is called *Noataĩek;* if with spears, *Noararaĩnĩek,* or *Nahamatĩek;* if with fists alone, *Nemarketĩek.* This word reminds me of a ludicrous occurrence. A certain Bavarian lay-brother of our's stayed some time in the new colony of St. Ferdinand to build a hut for the Missionaries. Whilst he was employed in building, he daily had the Abipones for spectators, and heard them talk, without understanding a syllable of what they were saying. As he continually caught the words *Nahamatĩek, Noataĩek,* and many others ending in *tĩek,* one day at dinner he said to Father Joseph Brigniel, an Austrian, with much simplicity, "Never trust me, if the language of the Abipones isn't as like German as one egg is to another; I often hear them say *Trek, Trek.*"

1:Dobrizhoffer M-S (ca. 1760) 1822
814 Abipon 814

CHAPTER XXXIV.

OF THE ARMS OF THE ABIPONES.

141 [555] No man can obtain celebrity amongst the Abipones except by warlike prowess. Hence to have their arms properly made, in good order, and ready when needed, is their chief care. To defend themselves, and offend their enemies, they principally make use of the bow and spear. Their native soil produces a kind of wood 322 411 not to be met with in any other part of Paraguay, called *neterge*, which is of a red colour while fresh, and as hard as steel. They cleave this tree, cut out an oblong piece of wood, and shape it with a knife or a sharp stone. You would think it had been made by a turner. To straighten it they heat it every now and then by fire, and twirl it about between two logs of wood. By this method the Abipones 411 make spears scarce smaller than the Macedonian pikes; for they are more than five or six ells in length, pointed at both ends, that if one end gets blunt, the other may still be of service, and also for the convenience of sticking the spear into the ground when they pass the night in the plain. Formerly when they were

1:Dobrizhoffer M-5 (ca. 1760) 1822
SI4 Abipon SI4

FORMERLY WHEN THEY WERE
unacquainted with the very name of iron, they [411] [237]
fought with wooden spears, fixing a cow's or
stag's horn to the end of them by way of a
point. But when the Abipones obtained iron [177]
points from the Spaniards, they dexterously
inserted them into their spears, and used them
to slaughter those from whom they had re-
ceived them. When going to fight they grease
the point of the spear with tallow, that it may
enter more readily and deeper into the flesh.
We have sometimes seen spears four palms
deep in hostile blood, with such force had the
Abipones driven them into the sides of the sa-
vages who attacked our colony. As their tents [342]
and huts are in general rather low, they fix their
spears at the threshold of the door to have
them always in readiness. By the number of
spears you may know the number of warriors
which the horde contains. As European gene- [723]
rals, to conceal the scanty number of their
forces, and to supply the want of warlike in-
struments, have sometimes placed machines of
painted wood, on mounds, to frighten their
more numerous adversary; we, in like manner,
availing ourselves of the same species of cun-
ning, fixed spears hastily made of reeds or
wood, in the houses of the absent Abipones;
deluded by which the enemies' scouts reported
to their countrymen that the town was full of
DEFENDERS.

1:Dobrizhoffer M-5 (ca. 1760) 1822
514 Abipon 514

411 defenders. The Abipones are commendable not only for their skill in making their weapons, but also for their assiduity, in cleaning and polishing them. The points of their spears always shine like silver. I was often ashamed for the Spaniards, when I saw them furnished with mean, dirty, and incommodious arms, in the presence of the Abipones, who ridiculed their poverty and laziness. Most of them make use of a reed, a rude stake, a knotty club, the bough of a tree, or a twisted piece of wood, with a broken sword or knife tied to the end of it. The richer sort have guns, but generally bad ones, fitter to terrify than to slay the enemy; and moreover, you will find few able to handle them properly. Remember that I am speaking of the Spanish husbandmen who are ordered to fight against the savages; for you never see the regular troops without the cities of Buenos-Ayres and Monte-Video.

Bows as well as spears are made of the neterge. They are equal to a man's stature in length. When unbent, they are like a very straight stick, not being curved like the bows [237] of the Turks and Tartars. The string of the [824] bow is generally made of the entrails of foxes, [283] or of very strong threads supplied by a species of palm. When about to shoot off their arrows, that they may be able to bend the cord forcibly without hurting their hands, they wear a kind

1:Dobrizhoffer M-5 (ca. 1760) 1822
SI4 Abipon SI4
Chiquito SF9

of wooden gauntlet. The quiver is made of rushes, and adorned with woollen threads of various colours. The arrows, which are an ell and a palm in length, consist of a reed, to which a sharp point of bone, very hard wood, or iron is prefixed. Wooden points are more formidable than iron ones, but those of bone, which are made of a fox's leg, are the most to be dreaded of all; for they break in being extracted, and the part remaining in the body causes a swelling, and a very virulent ulcer, which leaves the wounded person no rest. Any wood, from being imbued with a kind of native poison, causes more pain and tumour than iron. The Abipones never poison their arrows, as is usual amongst many other people of America. The Chiquitos are dreaded by the neighbouring savages on this account, that if an arrow of theirs wound the outermost skin, and bring the least drop of blood, all the limbs will swell, and in the course of a few hours death will ensue. The deadly poison in which they dip their arrows, the Chiquitos, alone know how to prepare from the bark of an unknown tree, and to this day they reserve to themselves the knowledge of the cruel mystery. In hunting too they kill wild animals with arrows dipped in the same poison, and cutting out the wounded part of the body, eat them with safety,

A 411 [531]
A [237]
C 411
C [278]
C 224 411 262

1:Dobrizhoffer M-5 (ca. 1760) 1822
514 Abipon 514

Chiquito SF9
Vilela SI 4
Guaraui SM4

C 224 411 262 like the Guaranies, who fear not to feed on oxen stung to death by serpents, rejecting that part only which has been infected by the animal's tooth. Father Gumilla relates that the savages of the Orinoco prepare a most fatal poison to dip their arrows in.

A 411 237 The feathers which expedite the flight of the arrows are taken from the wings of crows, so that when the Abipones went out to shoot these birds we guessed that war was at hand. Each feather is tied on both sides, to the extremity of the reed, by a fibre of very slender thread. The V 237 411 Vilelas excite the admiration of all Paraguay by their skill in archery. They dexterously fasten the feathers to the arrow with a glue made from [381] the bladder of the fish vagre, inserting the point very lightly into the reed; an artifice which renders their arrows extremely dangerous, because whilst the reed is extracted the point remains sticking in the flesh. The Guaranies, less curious G 411 in these matters, apply the feathers of parrots, or other birds, to their arrows. When more than four hundred shoot at a mark, at the same moment, and they go to gather them up, each knows his own by the colour of the feathers. Every nation, in short, has a peculiar A 411 fashion in forming bows and arrows. The shorter are more dangerous than the longer ones, inasmuch as they are more difficult to be seen and avoided; but the longer have the advantage

1:Dobrizhoffer M-5 (ca. 1760) 1822
SI4 Abipon SI4

of going to a greater distance, and striking with more force. It is certain that the Abipones are very skilful archers: they are accustomed to the bow from children, and even in infancy can shoot little birds on the wing. In sportive contests, when a reward was proposed to each of the winners, a citron placed at a considerable distance served for a mark. Considering the number of archers, very few missed their aim, to the astonishment of the Spaniards who witnessed such dexterity. The Guaranies are also reckoned very expert in this art.

The Abipones have a great variety of arrows. Some are longer and thicker, as being intended to kill larger beasts. The form of the points is also various. Some are plain and have a straight point; some are barbed either on one or both sides, and others armed with a double row of barbs. You can never extract an arrow of this kind from the flesh, unless you turn it about with both hands, by which means you will open a way to extricate the barbs, but with what pain! When the Abipones see the remains of an arrow occupying any fleshy part of the body, as the thigh, or arm, they cut out the piece of flesh with the inherent particle themselves. The Cacique Ychoalay, in a sharp contest with his rival Oaherkaikin, was dangerously wounded with a bone arrow, which stuck in the back

1:Dobrizhoffer M-5 (ca. 1760) 1822
SI4 Abipon SI4

752 part of his head, and breaking in being ex-
151 tracted, remained fixed there as firm as a nail.
At our advice he visited Sta. Fè, to obtain the
[717] aid of a surgeon, who found it necessary to
make an incision before he could lay hold of the
bony arrow point with his forceps. The opera-
tion was successfully performed, but not with-
out severe pain, which the Indian bore with the
utmost fortitude, not allowing a single expres-
sion of pain to escape him; he even exhorted
the surgeon, who, unwilling to inflict so much
torture, was hesitating in his task, to proceed;
"Do you see me shrink?" said he: "fear nothing,
I beseech you; cut, pierce, do what ever you
like with confidence. I have long been accus-
tomed to pain, wounded as I have so often been
with different weapons." At length when the
bony point was extracted, such a quantity of
blood gushed out, you would have thought an
artery had been opened. The Indian beheld
this with a calm countenance, and thanked his
deliverer in the best terms he was master of.

411 Before entering a battle, they lay aside their
726 finest arrows to be employed on the blow which
they think of most importance, generally
having one of tried virtue in readiness to de-
fend themselves in urgent peril, or to slay some
224 one whose death they particularly desire. When
411 they wish not to kill, but to take alive, birds

1:Dobrizhoffer M-5 (ca. 1760) 1822
SI4 Abipon SI4

WHEN THEY WISH NOT TO KILL, BUT TO TAKE ALIVE, BIRDS
and other small animals, they use arrows furnished with a little ball of wood or wax, instead of a point: with this they stun and knock down the animal, but do not kill it. Whenever they are unable to direct the weapon straight to the mark, on account of some intervening obstacle, they shoot it archwise, giving it a curved direction, in the same manner as in besieging camps, balls of fire are cast from mortars. The Abipones stand in no need of these to set fire to houses; for they fasten burning cotton or tow to the ends of their arrows, and casting them against roofs of wood or straw, set fire to whatever they like, from ever so great a distance. Many towns of the Spaniards were reduced to ashes by this fatal artifice. In the town of the Rosary, I had the thatch of my house plastered over with thick mud to protect it from the flames cast by the arrows of the neighbouring savages. With the same view, I covered a wooden observatory, constructed for the purpose of watching the motions of the savages, with hides; nor did the contrivance disappoint my hopes.

The spear and the bow, though the chief arms of the Abipones, are not the only ones. They have a weapon composed of three stone balls, covered with leather, and fastened together by as many thongs meeting in one: this

[i.e. a bolas --- ANALYST]

1:Dobrizhoffer M-5 (ca. 1760) 1822
SI4 Abipon SI4
GUARANI
PERUVIAN INDIANS
SM4
SE3

they whirl round, and then cast, with a sure aim, at men and beasts; by which means they are either killed or so noosed, as to prevent them from moving. This formidable weapon, which the Spaniards call *las bolas*, is much used by the southern savages. The lower orders of Spaniards, and all the Indians and Negroes, whenever they ride out are constantly seen with these balls hanging at their saddle or girth; indeed they are in very general use. I have spoken at large in the seventh chapter, of the wooden club *macana*, which they use at home for amusement, and abroad for killing men and beasts. The sling, in the use of which the Guaranies are so expert, is thought little of by the Abipones; amongst them it is only used by boys to knock down small birds with. They have a bow which, instead of a string, is furnished with a piece of cloth, three inches wide, and made of a material very like hemp; stretching this with the hand, they shoot off small clay balls, instead of arrows, to kill birds and other small animals. That wooden tube from which little balls or nails, furnished with silken or linen threads to aid their flight, are blown by the mouth, is unknown to the Abipones, but I am informed that it is used by certain Peruvian Indians dwelling amongst the Moxos and Baures. These people, not being provided with iron nails, put thick

1:Dobrizhoffer M-5 (ca. 1760) 1822
S14 Abipon S14

CHAPTER XLI.

CONCERNING THE ARMS OF THE ABIPONES, AND THEIR BATTLE-ARRAY IN FIGHTING WITH OTHER SAVAGES.

DIFFERENT enemies must be combated with different arms. The Abipones, when they go out against the Spaniards, lay aside their breast-plates of antas' skins, and their bows, and place their chief dependence in a swift horse and a strong lance; but when attacked at home by a foreign foe, whoever it may be, they make successful use of the bow, for, from the constant exercise of war and hunting, they acquire so much skill in the use of that weapon that they take a more certain aim with it than the Spaniards do with a gun.

Let us suppose that a rumour is spread throughout the hordes of the Abipones that the savages are speedily coming to attack them. If they have strength and courage sufficient to repel the enemy, trusty scouts are sent out in every direction to learn their route. The rest, meantime, make it their chief care to prepare a drink of honey, or the alfaroba, for a public drinking-party. For the Abipones think that they are never more acute in counsel, or braver